



Virginia Resource-Use Education Council

P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, Virginia 23230-1104

Founded 1952

Business Meeting Minutes, June 4, 2013

Meeting start: 2:45 PM End: 4:45 PM

The June VRUEC business meeting was held at the New Kent Forestry Center, Providence Forge, VA.

VRUEC Members present: Rebecca Askew (VDACS), Carol Hopper Brill (VIMS), Lisa Deaton (VA Dept. of Forestry), Cindy Duncan (Chesapeake Bay Foundation), Greg Eaton (Claytor Nature Study Center), Suzie Gilley (DGIF), Andrew W. Larkin (NOAA B-WET), Candace Lutzow-Felling (State Arboretum of Virginia), Bill Portlock (Chesapeake Bay Foundation), Ann Regn (DEQ), Llyn Sharp (V Tech), Tim Taglauer (NPS), Tamra Willis (Mary Baldwin College), Virginia Witmer (DEQ), Anne Wright (VCU Rice Center), Barbara Young (VDOE), Carol Zokaite (DCR)

Guests: Sheila Barnett (DCR VOEE), Alycia Crall (VMN), Mike Foreman (DCR VOEE), Sarah McGuire Nuss (VIMS), David Ruble (DCR VOEE)

I. Reports & Organization Business

1. Review of Minutes, submitted by Candace Lutzow-Felling

Minutes for the January 17, 2013 meeting were reviewed, and accepted, as read.

Minutes are sent to all members through the VRUEC member Dropbox folder and VA Naturally website, VRUEC link

2. Treasurer's Report, submitted by Ann Regn

Income: NOAA Watershed Educators' Institute (WEI) to pay for mini-grants 4K

Expenses: WEI & VaN \$4k for mini-grants for MWEE

Current Balance: \$6980

Upcoming expenses: Elementary Principals Conference & VAST PDI; Conference networking social; NAAEE affiliate workshop attendance

Checking Account Report: A list of all disbursements made January 14 through May 29, 2013 also was reviewed.

The full Treasurer's report can be found in the VRUEC member Dropbox folder

The Treasurers' report was accepted as read.

3. Dropbox (Barbara Young)

Log on www.dropbox.com

Do not drag and drop files into your computer

You can open the document and save to your computer or download to your desktop

4. Voting on New Members, as representatives of their organizations

Both candidates have attended at least two meetings:

Mike Foreman, DCR VOEE

Sarah McGuire Nuss, VIMS

Vote result: Unanimous approval for membership. Both now have voting rights.

5. Member Reports

- Report format will be modified based on member feedback
- One option is to having two reporting forms: one for committees & one for member organizations
- Purpose of reports is to highlight EE activity to inform all members; reports provide a written record of activity & highlight items for which action is needed

Action items from reports:

Treasurer: vote to distribute remaining EE conference income—already done

Va Naturally:

1. *EE Conference Date:* Consider moving EE conference from fall to winter or early spring (many other events in the fall; also might help to encourage teachers to attend; Send survey and ask member what months are preferred)
2. *EE Conference Planning:* Let Sheila know if you would like to help organize the 2013 conference. Sheila passed out sign-up forms for special EE organizing committees (Awards & Recognition; Proposal review; T-shirt design)
The conference is scheduled for Oct 16-18. 2013 and will be held at Orkney Springs. The conference theme is "Flora of Virginia". Target date for proposal rfp's is June 10-July 16; August 12 registration will open; Cost \$225 (early registration), \$250 (regular reg), \$275 (late reg); Price includes lodging and all meals; Joint field trips will be offered with the VA Master Naturalist conference which is being held right after EE Conference
3. *Feedback on Va naturally web site:* please review & give feedback on proposed changes

PLT: participation has dropped for 2012. Anyone else experienced downturns? Email Lisa Deaton if you would like to talk about this.

Virginia Master Naturalists: Four strategic planning sessions will be held throughout the state in November. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Blacksburg, Nov 18

Williamsburg, Nov 20

Reston/DC, Nov 21

Charlottesville, Nov 22

Watch for further info from Alycia Crall

VDOE: VA teacher licensure regulations are up for review and are open for public comment: barb will send info on how to view and make a public comment

MSP funds are supporting a watershed academy in SW Virginia (biodiversity of the region; citizen science; geology; Grades 6-12; VDOE Region 6 & 7 was the focus)

DEQ CZM: Governor is working on a Virginia marine debris management plan

6. VaESP Conference, June 29 (preconference); June 29-July 2, 2013

18 VRUEC presentations accepted; Suzie Gilley is responsible for the display
Please send a blurb about your organization with a logo, email to Suzie; Also send Suzie any give-away items + door prizes for the exhibit (ex. Totes, poster, etc)
VaESP = Virginia Elementary School Principals

7. New NOAA B-WET Academy Grant (Barbara Young)

Awarded for the first year, informally; no formal award letter received, yet
Need VRUEC members to support this project
Two academies are planned for this school year, 2013-2014 (James River watershed & Rappahannock & York watersheds); 4 weekends for each academy (1 headwater, 1 Piedmont, 1 tidewater & 1 in the Bay)
Also asking EE teams, WEI graduates, & VRUEC organization to adopt a participating school to help with MWEE throughout the school year; serve as local partner/mentor throughout the school year
School divisions with three or less middle schools are being targeted; smaller school divisions
Barb Young will send out further information once the award has formally been received.
VRUEC in-kind commitment: offer a 2-day training institute this fall (2013) for VRUEC members with a focus on teaching methods, how to work with schools and teachers, MWEE unit development
NOAA has proposed to add \$15 K/year for 3 years to develop a statewide EE Literacy Plan

8. 2013 NOAA B-WET up-date (Andrew Larkin)

Funding received for FY 2013; therefore existing projects will be funded
4 new awards funded already
U.S. President's proposal to consolidate STEM programs; all STEM education would be under US DOE, Smithsonian, and NSF

9. EPA Capacity Grant Proposal (Barbara Young)

\$20-40 K grant; Looking to build capacity with folks in EE; desire a state affiliate to assume the lead (such as VRUCE); VRUEC could partner with ES and secondary principals creating 3-day institutes in the 8 VDOE regions in VA.
Due date: June 15, 2013
Please contact Barb ASAP if interested in helping to write this grant
GMU VISTA Project also interested in collaborating on this project; VISTA has funds to sponsor 4 of these institutes with a focus on outdoor education
Lead agency will be VRUEC

10. NAAEE Professional Development Program Grant Opportunity

Greg Eaton will send info to everyone to gauge interest.

11. Number of VRUEC Meetings/Year (Barbara Young)

Should we continue to have 2 meetings/year or add 1 or 2 meetings with the possibility of having one as a web-based meeting?
The pilot WEBEX meeting is for information sharing only & is separate from a formal VRUEC meeting.

Discussion:

Add a VRUEC meeting to the EE Conference; Difficult to travel 4x/year
Avoid meeting when the General Assembly is in session
Probably will need more than 2 hours for a fall meeting because of our strategic planning effort

Motion: Add two more VRUEC meetings, one attached to the fall EE conference (if feasible) & one web-based meeting

Action: Motion passed

12. Advance Facilitators' Meeting (David Ruble)

Idea: Provide advanced training for Project Underground, P-WET, PLT, etc facilitators & conduct an assessment of the programs; Look for further up-dates from David

13. Barbara Young, resigning from Chair position (effective immediately)

VDOE considers the VRUEC Chair position a conflict of interest with her position as VDOE Science Specialist

Greg Eaton will become the acting chair of VRUEC

Barb will continue as a member of VRUEC representing VDOE

14. Environmental Literacy Policy Committee Report (Tamra Willis)

RE: VRUEC White Paper on Environmental Literacy

Feedback received from VRUEC members, state educators, etc.; 18 folks total

Definitions of environmental literacy investigated

Plan tailored to Virginia; the Env. Literacy white paper has been sent to VRUEC members & will be placed in our VRUEC Dropbox folder

Need VDOE support to make this possible; might be good not to seek a formal environmental literacy plan right now

Can develop strategies to move forward

Can use some of the \$15K capacity award from NOAA to conduct a statewide needs assessment for Env. Literacy; send survey to formal and non-formal educators

Scope of Work needs to be written and sent to NOAA by June 10; one page SOW of how we plan to spend the \$15K

Contact Suzie Gilley if interested in working on this project

15. VRUEC Executive Committee Positions

All position terms will end in December, 2013. Please let Greg Eaton or Nominations Committee members (Carol Zokaite, Carol Hopper Brill, Sarah McGuire) know if you are interested in running for an office.

Closing Announcements:

The next VRUEC meeting is being planned for December, 2013. Members will receive email notification of the next meeting place, time, and date.

Respectfully submitted,



Candace Lutzow-Felling
VRUEC Secretary